



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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CONTACT:

Eric Lamoureux

(916) 845-8400

Greg Renick

(562) 577-8503

State Assistance to San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara Counties For San Simeon Earthquake Response, Repairs Tops \$6.8 Million

SACRAMENTO – Two years after the magnitude-6.5 San Simeon earthquake struck the Central Coast, more than \$6.8 million in state reimbursements to public agencies in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties have been approved, officials with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) announced today.

The 11:15 a.m. earthquake on Dec. 22, 2003 caused two deaths and more than 50 injuries. A preliminary assessment of damages to the private sector conducted after the earthquake classified 14 residential structures as destroyed and another 72 as having "major damage."

The \$6.8 million represents the state's 25-percent share of reimbursements approved so far since President Bush's declared a major disaster for both counties on Jan. 7, 2004 at the request of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The declaration made both counties eligible for reimbursement of eligible costs associated with the implementation of emergency protective measures and the repair and restoration of damaged roads, bridges and other public facilities.

"Helping local governments ease the financial burden they have incurred protecting the public and repairing roads, water treatment systems and other public facilities damaged by the earthquake remains one of our priorities," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "We will continue to work with local and representatives to obtain all the additional state and federal reimbursements local governments are eligible for under the law."

The presidential disaster declaration requested by the Governor also made affected San Luis Obispo County homeowners, renters and business owners eligible for more than \$26.7 million in assistance.

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